County Health Rankings model ©2012 UWPHI

To Support Population Health for All, We Need to Consider Health in Decisions in Across Sectors

Land Use

Food Policy

Justice System

Fiscal Policy

Transportation

Education

One Solution:
Health Impact Assessment

A **systematic** process

that uses **an array of data sources and analytic methods**,

and **considers input from stakeholders**

to determine the **potential effects** of a

proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the

health of a population and the distribution of those effects

within the population. HIA **provides recommendations**

on monitoring and **managing** those effects.

National Research Council, 2011

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Key Goals of Health Impact Assessment

Primary:

- Identify +/- health impacts of a proposal
- Highlight health disparities
- Make health a key factor in decision making
- Create decisions based on scientific evidence
- Provide recommendations to improve health

Additional Goals

- Build relationships
- Engage impacted groups and decision makers
- Increase transparency in decision making

HIA is NOT intended to:

- Make the case why a policy, program or project <u>should or should not</u> be proposed
- Assess impacts once program has been implemented
- Evaluate a program to make improvements
- Assess community needs*

*HIA is always connected to a decision that is being considered

HIA: A solution to a problem
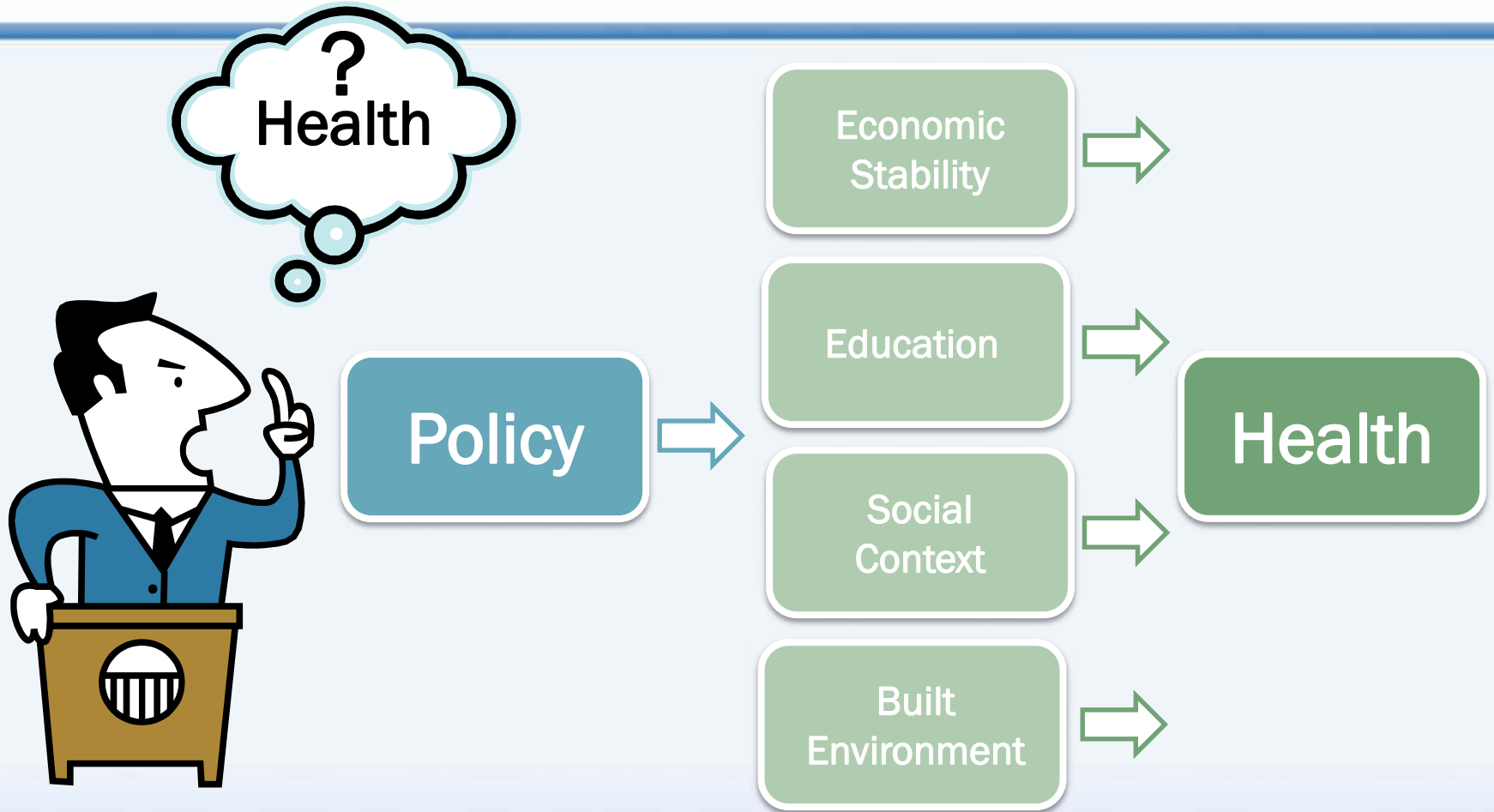
History and Current State of Practice

- 15+ years nationally & internationally

- Standards and best practices

- Several relevant professional associations

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Application of HIA

- **Types of decision making**

  - Policy Decisions (e.g. bills by state legislature)

  - Policy Implementation (e.g. weigh various implementation options for a policy once it is passed)

  - Project-Specific (e.g. siting, permitting, construction, design)

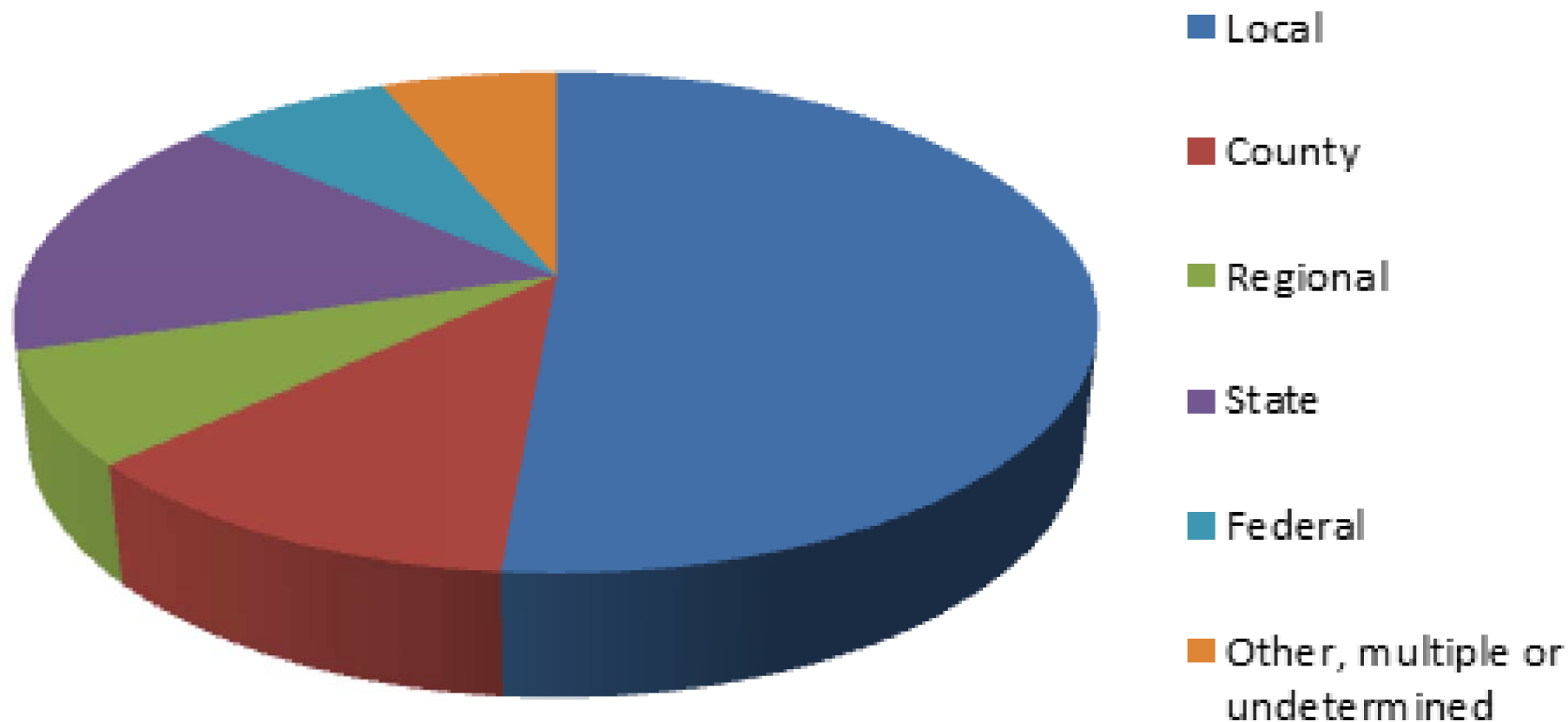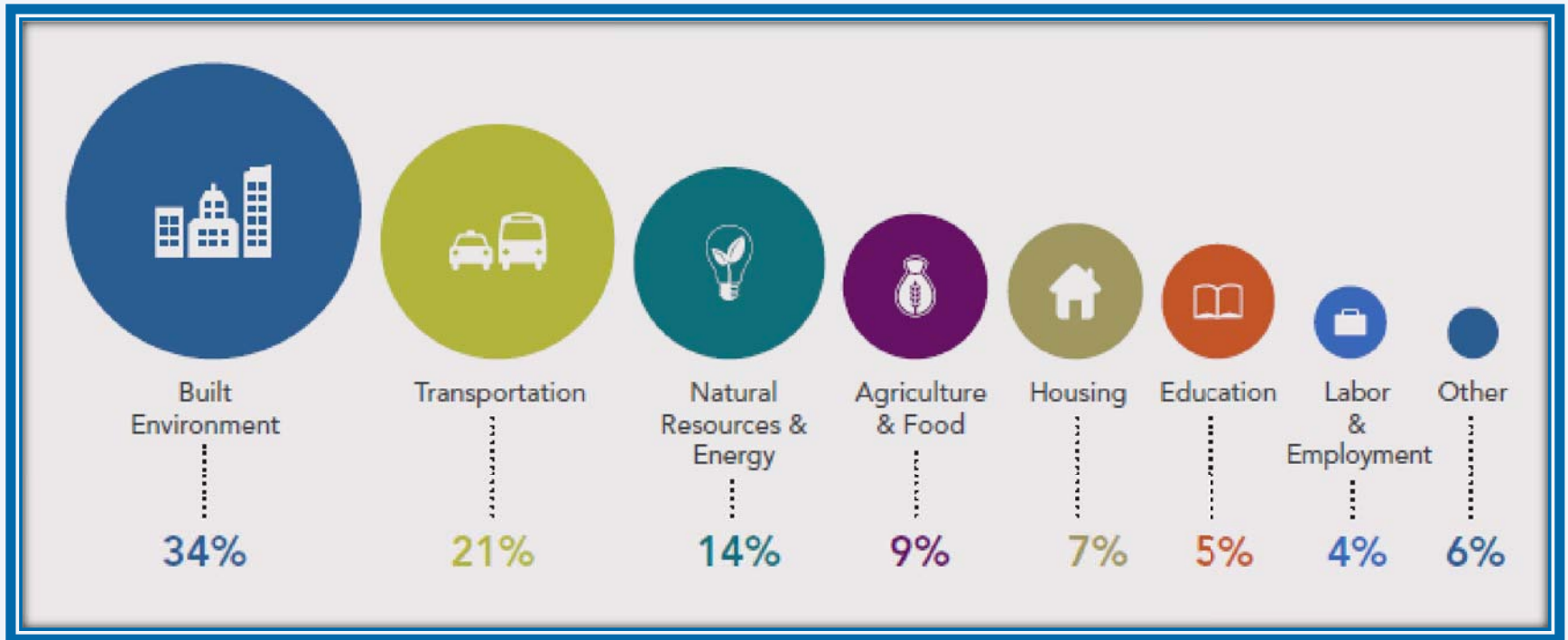 - Comprehensive Plans (e.g. regional growth plans)

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Who Does HIA?
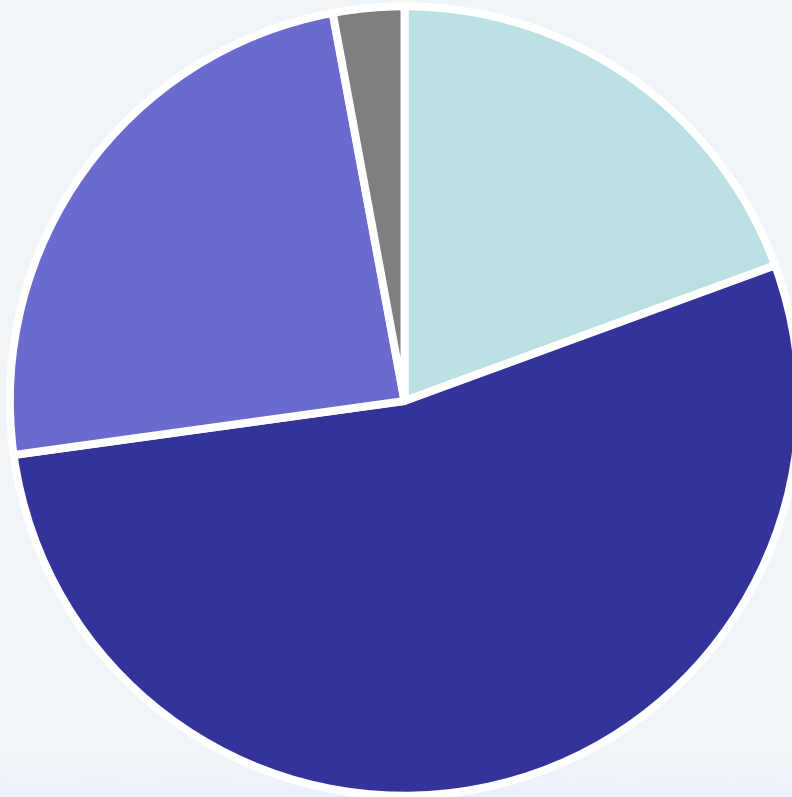
- ■ Educational institution
- ■ Government agency
- ■ Nonprofit Organization
- ■ For profit/undetermined

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The Level of Decision Making

HIAs are used to inform decisions at what levels?

- Local
- County
- Regional
- State
- Federal
- Other, multiple or undetermined

What topics have HIAs addressed?

Built Environment	Transportation	Natural Resources & Energy	Agriculture & Food	Housing	Education	Labor & Employment	Other
34%	21%	14%	9%	7%	5%	4%	6%

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PROJECT

Completed HIAs 2007
(N = 27)

MN 1

MA 2

NJ 1

CO 1

CA 15

GA 3

FL 1

AK 3
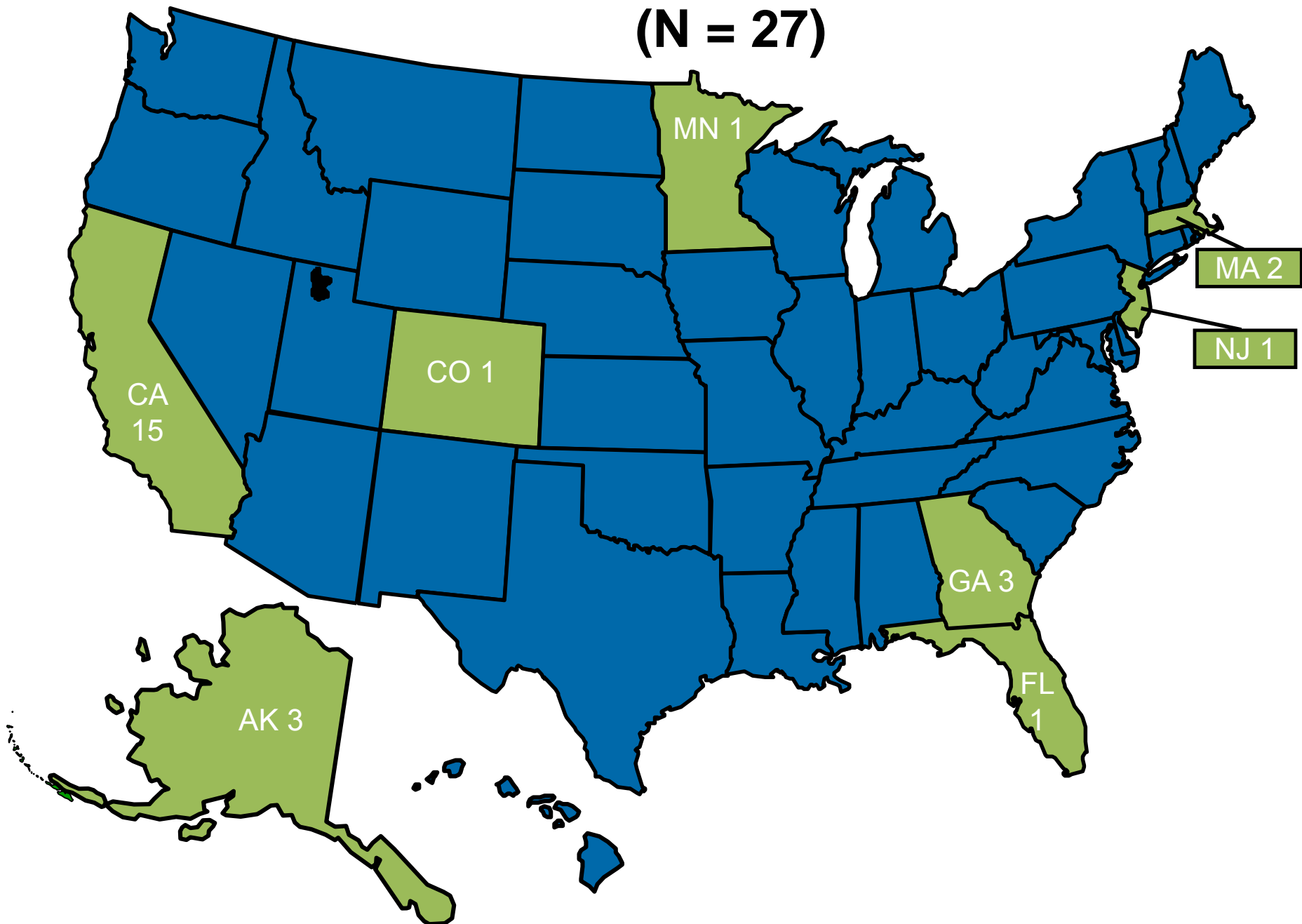
Completed and In Progress HIAs
2014 (N = 334)

WA 11

OR 24

MT 2

MN 21

ME 2

NH 4

MA 17

CT 4

NJ 5

DE 1

WI 11

NY 2

MI 11

PA 4

NV 1

NE 6

IL 6

IN 4

OH 11

WV 1

VA 2

MD 6

DC 1

CA 69

CO 13

KS 3

MO 4

KY 3

NC 13

AZ 6

NM 6

TN 6

SC 2

TX 6

LA 2

GA 11

FL 8

AK 18

Puerto Rico: 1

HI 2
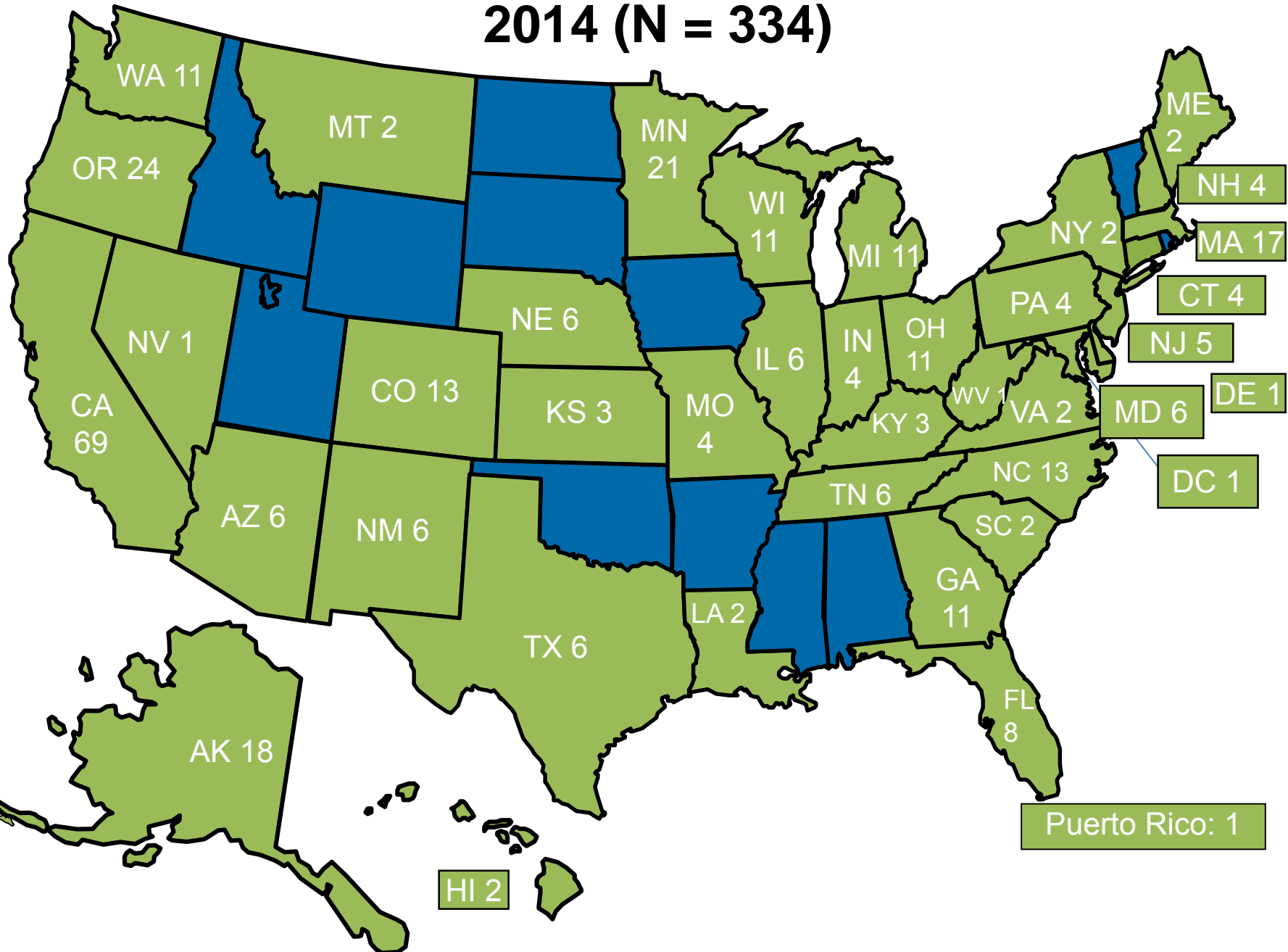
How Do You Define "Success" In HIA?

- *Informed the decision* – "HIA recommendations were 100% adopted into the growth plan"
- "*New partnerships* between health and other agencies"
- *A culture change* – "It brought health concerns into the discussion; decision-makers/planning department now routinely thinking about health"
- "*Addressed community concerns*"
- "*Educated decision-maker* about how a policy that seemed to have nothing to do with health, actually has health consequences"
- *Increasing community awareness about HIA* and about how to use the results in their advocacy efforts"

The Value of HIA: Policymaker Reactions

*"The HIA **revealed gaps in the data** we needed to make good decisions"* -Stacie McIntosh, U.S. Bureau of Land Management

*"The HIA has **helped neutralize conflict** by bringing different groups and disciplines together."* -Janet Miller, Wichita City council member

*"An HIA is a Rosetta Stone... **it's a translator.** ... we're asking what people think, we're saying we care what they have to say, and we're making the effort to do it."*

*"HIA helps me win. It does all the work on the front end; nobody is angry, because **all the concerns have been addressed**."* -Cleveland Councilman Joe Cimperman

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